

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A device for the earthquake-resistant mounting of a partition between a floor (2) and a ceiling (4), said partition having a framework comprised of a lower rail (8) and an upper rail (10) that are substantially horizontal and configured to connect to substantially vertical uprights ~~that are substantially vertical to connect~~ for connecting the upper and lower rails, the framework configured to fixably connect with a covering (6), the device comprising:

a slide (18) of profiled section, ~~the slide configured to be joined to the upper rail (10) and~~ having arms (22) forming a substantially U-shaped section and configured to be joined to the upper rail (10); and

a top runner (30) comprised of a rail with two side flanges (36) extending parallel to and within the arms (22) of the U-shaped section of the slide (18) such that the slide (18) and the top runner (30) are movable relative to each other in a vertical direction, the top runner being configured to be fixed to the ceiling (4); ~~and configured to be partially housed in the slide (18) between the arms of the U shaped section of the slide,~~

reversible snap-fitting means between the slide (18) and the top runner (30), the snap-fitting means comprised of first and second matching bosses (26, 38), the first boss projecting inward respective of the flanges (36) of the top runner, and the second boss projecting inward respective of the arms of the slide,

wherein the slide (18) and top runner (30) are each mounted to move relative to each other in a vertical direction, and

wherein ~~reversible snap fitting means (26, 28) are provided between the slide (18) and the top runner (30)~~ the first boss (26) is configured, in a resting position, to locate in the second boss (38).

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the slide (18) comprises, at each free end ~~ends of each~~ of the arms (22) of the U-shaped section, a rim (24) extending outwardly of the U of the U-shaped section, substantially perpendicular to the arms (22) of the U.

5. (previously presented) The device according to claim 4, further comprising:

an elastic joint (48) adapted to be located between a rim (24) of the slide (18) and the ceiling (4) on which the top runner (30) is fixed.

6. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the top runner (30) ~~is a member of profiled section comprising two side flanges (36) slidingly mounted between the arms (22) of the U shaped section of the slide (18) and also also~~ comprises a housing (34), disposed between the side flanges (36), on the opposite side from the slide (18), ~~and adapted~~ configured to receive a material (35) having fire-retardant properties.

7. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising:

at least one anchorage reinforcing member (16) disposed in the top runner (30).

8. (previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein said anchorage reinforcing member (16) is constituted by a U-section member disposed transversely with respect to the slide (18) and the top runner (30).

9. (currently amended) A partition ~~framework~~, comprising:

a device according to claim 1;

a substantially horizontal lower rail (8);

a substantially horizontal upper rail (10), said lower rail (8) and said upper rail (10) being configured to be connected to substantially vertical uprights, and said upper rail (10) being configured to join with said device; and

a covering (6) fixed to said upper and lower rails; ~~and~~  
~~a device according to claim 1.~~

10. (previously presented) The partition according to claim 9, wherein an upper portion of the covering (6) is fixed so as not to extend beyond the slide (18) forming a free space between the covering (6) and the ceiling (4), said space configured to be filled by a joint (48) of elastic material.

11. (previously presented) The partition according to claim 9, wherein the covering boards (6) are mounted so as to be floating with respect to the lower rail (8).

12. (previously presented) The partition according to claim 9, wherein a flexible mastic joint (46) is provided between the floor (2) and the covering (6) fixed to the framework.

13. (previously presented) The partition according to claim 9, wherein at least one anchorage reinforcing member (16) is disposed transversely in the lower rail (8).

14. (currently amended) A partition, comprising:

a ~~substantially vertical side edge~~ first rail (8)  
extending in a first direction;

a ~~substantially vertical side~~ second rail (10) spaced from  
said first rail and extending in the first direction ~~associated~~  
~~with each of said substantially vertical side edge;~~ and

a device configured to mount said ~~partition~~ second rail  
(10) on a ~~substantially vertical wall,~~ surface; and

a body (6) extending between said first and second rails  
(8, 10) and fixed to said first and second rails (8, 10),

wherein the second rail (10) is configured to join with  
said device,

wherein the device is comprised of a slide (18) of  
profiled section, ~~the slide~~ with arms (22) forming a substantially  
U-shaped section configured to be joined to the ~~side~~ second rail  
(10) and having arms forming a substantially U shaped section, a  
runner (30) configured to be fixed to the surface and comprised of  
a third rail with two side flanges (36) extending parallel to and  
within the arms (22) of the U-shaped section of the slide (18)  
such that the slide (18) and the runner (30) are movable relative  
to each other in the first direction, and ~~a vertical runner~~  
~~configured to be fixed to the vertical wall and configured to be~~  
~~partially housed in the slide (18) between the arms of the U-~~  
~~shaped section of the slide~~ reversible snap-fitting means between

the slide (18) and the runner (30), the snap-fitting means  
comprised of first and second matching bosses (26, 38), the first  
boss projecting inward respective of the flanges (36) of the  
runner, and the second boss projecting inward respective of the  
arms of the slide,

wherein the slide (18) and the runner are each mounted  
to move relative to each other in ~~a horizontal~~ the first  
direction, and

wherein ~~reversible snap fitting means (26, 28) are~~  
~~provided between the slide (18) and the vertical runner~~ the first  
boss (26) is configured, in a resting position, to locate in the  
second boss (38).